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South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Medical Examiners



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POSITION STATEMENT¹ ON PHYSICIANS LICENSED IN OTHER STATES
PROVIDING CARE TO SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

A number of out-of-state physicians providing care to South Carolina residents have recently inquired as to their obligation to obtain a license to practice medicine in South Carolina to perform certain acts incidental to their treatment provided in another state. The typical situation presented involves a physician practicing in a specialty clinic located in another state. A South Carolina resident travels to the clinic, where an in-person physician-patient relationship is established. Between visits, the physician needs to perform specific acts necessary to continue his/her care of the patient. Such acts may include telephone consultations with patients, sending prescriptions to a pharmacy located in South Carolina, and other acts incidental to the care of the patient.

The Board views such acts incidental to the care provided in another state to be a continuation of the care initiated in the other state. To that end, the Board would not expect the physician in another state to obtain a license in South Carolina to perform such acts.

¹ The Board is authorized to “publish advisory opinions and position statements relating to practice procedures or policies authorized or acquiesced to by any agency, facility, institution, or other organization that employs persons authorized to practice under this chapter to comply with acceptable standards of practice.” S.C. Code Ann. § 40-47-10(I)(1).